# The Hampden Hippocrat

A Bulletin for the Hampden District of the Massachusetts Medical Society

VOLUME VII SPRING, 1951 Number 12


## FIFTY YEARS AGONE

To forecast a glimpse of the future undubitably would be rash
And best left to second guessers and poetasters like Ogden Nash
In view of what has transpired in the first half of the XXth Century.
Trolley cars, for example, once ubiquitous — yes glamorous — no longer are even ventury
But are found mostly in museums along with thunder mugs, bustles and medical bedside manners.
Another bard, O. Holmes, M. D., was wont to carry in his pocket a box of millet seed to remind himself that human planners
In our universe are truly minuscule. How much less cocky and chipper
Should twentieth centurians be, now that Harvard's Dr. Shapely has demonstrated fifteen hundred other universes like our Milky Way hard by the big Dipper!
Still and all, during these years, miracles have been wrought:
Today with harnessed sound waves we speak as we like, near or far overseas; we transmit music and action without wires,
While color waits in the wings; we guide to safe landings liners of the ocean or the airways and bounce echoes off the ocean floor, — the moon itself — into range was brought!
And faster than sound new aircraft fly, ripping the sky —
From the Wrights' first try on Kitty Hawk sands a very far cry!
The Pearly Gates, — and the nether ones too — now often stand denied
Since medical miracles are endlessly multiplied; —
By virture of Einstein's epochal work — relation of mass to energy,
An 'Albert', not 'Oscar', pronto should go to the world-famous refugee.
"Energy equals mass times the square of the velosity of light",
Quoth the researchers' idol, — (no barber's delight!)
Yes, one might venture to prophesy that the past fifty years
Will someday be known as the Age of Stein.

'There's Gertrude there's Ep and there's Ein.
Gert's writings are punk,
Ep's statues are junk
And nobody understands Ein.' (Anonymous)

As for me, would that my own universe, though so far from being relativitous,
Might be much more shipley shapely!

S. Q. Lapius

# Hampden Hippocrat

"Life is short and art is long, the occasion fleeting, experience fallacious and judgment difficult." —Hippocrates, 430 B.C.

This Issue 500 Copies



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## FACTS THAT COUNT

Turn back to the January 18th number, (Vol. 244 No. 3) of your New England Journal of Medicine if you missed Frederick C. Irving's concise presentation of the advances that have been achieved in Obstetrics during the first half of the XXth Century. There you will find reliable statistics to prove that the benighted, capitalistic physicians of these United States by their study and painstaking application of the lessons learned, though unaided by paternalistic federal oversight or subsidy, now lead the world in saving the lives of parturient mothers and their offspring.

The vital statistics of the latest year available in Massachusetts revealed a maternal mortality of less than one per cent (0.7%) as against 3.9% in 1900. That is to say, deaths in childbirth were reduced in this state five and one-half times. In the thirty years that similar figures were available for all the states, the reduction for the whole country came to four and three quarters. The lessening in stillbirths for the nation, 40% in 25 years, was over 50% in fifty years in Massachusettes. Neonatal and premature deaths of infants also were much improved.

There are two deductions that impartial critics may draw from these pertinent findings. First, if the maternal and infant mortality statistics in your community are not up to our state level or beyond, Dr. Irving's paper clearly states the methods that should be employed to improve them. Secondly, would it not be more likely that advances in the practice of medicine here and everywhere would continue if the theorists from their ivory towers would broadcast figures such as these instead of those halftruths and distortions of fact that they accept ready-made from bureaucratic sources. Editors of our supposedly respectable magazines too should study them instead of trusting to sensationalism to bolster their circulations.

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PERSONAL INFORMATION CARDS

"Nearly a hundred members have neglected to fill out and return to the secretary the personal information cards sent them. Please do so at once. Allen G. Rice, Secretary"


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Dr. W. A. R. Chapin
121 Chestnut Street, Springfield, Mass.
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## BETTER SCHOOLS, NOT MORE

Unhygienically enough, Editor Garland took the words out of our mouths by pointing out that need for another medical school in Massachusetts has not been established.* The question is not one of location, nor of political expedience, but whether, firstly, medical service in our State would benefit, and if so, would the tremendous outlay that such a venture would involve be justified?

The figures show that with one exception (New York) Massachusetts has the lowest number of patients per doctor, only 538, of any state in the Union. Pennsylvania has 740, Ohio 808 and Michigan 914. More than 1000 of those Tennessee waltzers get along with one physician, slightly fewer Texans. So we do not feel the pinch until war time needs increase the ratio through medical procurement. When the newly established emergency services are functioning efficiently, this artificial shortage will be less embarrassing to local communities.

One of our board recently was privileged to inspect the splendid new Tufts Medical School building with Dean Dwight O'Hara acting as guide. The latter pointed out current difficulties to keep such excellent modern facilities in operation. For lack of cadavers for anatomical facilities in instructon, anatomy must be given in groups. The dearth of animals necessary to research purposes also was noted. But the visitor was struck by the sight of empty laboratories that are not in year-round use. More students could be admitted if classes were staggered, — or so it seems to an eye unused to problems of administration. This would entail more teachers that in war time are less available, and more funds that already are inadequate.

Nine states that subsidize medical education do not meet the record of Massachusetts. In such a situation would the addition of another forty million dollars to the taxpayers' burden be justifiable? The Hippocrat agrees with Editor Joe that the problem requires more study and discussion. Our columns, too, are open for debate. On page 7 of this issue appears the first contribution in rebuttal. Let us have more.

*N. E. Journal of Medicine — February 1, 1951, Vol. 244 No. 5.

## CONTINUED NURSING SHORTAGE

The nursing shortage shows no sign of improvement, though 25,790 nurses were graduated in 1950. The needs of the military, industry, public health and civilian services, are far beyond available personnel. Even in our own hospitals there are empty beds and waiting patients because of nursing lack. Something must be done to revamp the nursing courses in our hospitals so that the training can be accelerated, indeed the financial gap between the L. A. and the R. N. is so slight that the highly trained registered nurse of today is at a disadvantage.

## IMPERFECT T. V. INSTALLATION

The National Board of Fire Underwriters broadcasts warning that imperfect installations of T. V. may be hazardous. High antennas invite lightning. Metal poles should be grounded and approved lightning arresters provided. Increased current is consumed by T. V.; also higher voltage and more heat-producing parts are used. The increased risk of fire will be lessened by proper access for air. The natural ventilation built into the receiver should not be blanketed or blocked by location. Science News Letter, July, 22/50.

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## EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICE

The Emergency Medical Service listed as such in the Springfield Telephone Directory (7-2702), is filling a long felt want and the 50 doctors who have signed up are apparently satisfied with the way it is working out, though not all calls are paid for, and human nature being what it is, sometimes more than one doctor responds to the same call. The effort is made to find out the nature of the emergency and send the appropriate aid so that a surgeon or pediatrician is not called to a patient with a heart attack or in coma. But a doctor is not always located immediately, especially during the day, and while waiting the family often becomes panicky and tries to get another doctor. There are numerous incidents of this — as for instance one doctor was called out at midnight while at a card party, by one of the neighbors who reported that he and his wife had just returned home, found the mother unconscious on the floor and the house reeking with coal gas. A brother who had arrived just a few minutes before, had already telephoned for a doctor. The doctor immediately went to the house, succeeded in resuscitating the woman and stayed until the fumes were cleared out. Just as he was leaving, the other doctor arrived, having mistaken the address.

Another time a doctor was called at daylight, for a patient who was in great pain. In the few moments required for him to reach the house, a police ambulance had been summoned and was taking the patient (already dead) to the Mercy Hospital, and while the first doctor was finding out what happened, another doctor appeared on the scene. A recent emergency call was for a woman who was injured by a machine falling on her. A doctor was sent immediately but meanwhile the woman had been carried to a nearby doctor's office.

There are about 300 calls a month, and for the most part can be handled by the general practicing physician, in fact few require a specialist's care. Very few of the calls come from families who have any physician, which makes this service of particular value in that it not only provides medical care when needed, but is an excellent demonstration of how important it is to have a doctor one can call upon at any time. It completely refutes the allegation that doctors will not go out on emergency calls, and is an important contribution to our program for strengthening the public faith and confidence in the medical profession.

A similar emergency service under the auspices of the Holyoke Medical Society (Holyoke 7998) was put into operation in the Paper City on February 1, 1951. Over 30 volunteers have been assigned particular dates to answer emergency calls with the various branches of medical practices represented. As might be expected, it will take some time to develop smooth efficiency in this service.

On the first night of the month, a night characterized by the worst conditions of the winter for transportation, five such calls were sent in to the central registry. In spite of this a man died of coronary occlusion while the doctor that was called was busy on another case across the river. It is reported also, that on the first Sunday under such service a wife of one of the volunteers refused the call which then was made by one of the 'old reliables' who was not assigned to that particular date.

That the initial favorable public relations created by these efforts are injured by such incidents goes without saying. Some of the old time ethical regard for welfare of our public and the reputation of our profession must be rediscovered.

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## JUVENILE DELINQUENCY

A local editorial page* recently carried two significant items. The first was an editorial reporting the results of a ten year study of Boston's slum areas by Prof. Sheldon Glueck and his wife, Dr. Eleanor T. Gueck, both outstanding criminologists associated with the Harvard Law School.

The study included 500 boys who persistently misbehaved, and another 500 pranksters who were not delinquent. They found 1) There is no penaceo that will cure such youthful troubles; 2) I. Q.'s low or high have little bearing on the problem; 3) the same is true of environment, slums notwithstanding; 4) nor does the size and health of the boy's families; 5) also whether schools are good or bad and whether suitable recreational opportunities are provided has little or no influence on results.

These authorities concluded that the major factor in producing delinquency of these boys was the kind of relationships that existed between them and their parents. If family life was found to be adequate, the chances were only 3 in 100 that the boy would turn out to be delinquent. 98 out of 100 went wrong when the reverse was true. Where the father was lax in discipline, over-strict or erratic instead of firm and kindly in his control, or a mother did nothing to direct leisure activities, or they both rejected a boy emotionally, trouble inevitably followed. Therefore, the crying need is not for more playgrounds, better schools or church discipline but a recrudescence of family life and re-education of parents. Indeed, the proper solution of the increasing burden of delinquency will reqiure the combined resources of mental hygiene, social follow-up in the home, better education and reigious and ethical instruction.

The second item was the report of Leonard W. Mayo, President of the Child Welfare League of America, concerning 100,000 children born in these United States without benefit of clergy, that never had a chance at family life; further, 6,000,000 children who are members of families disrupted by divorce, death or desertion.

"In this the wealthiest of nations", he writes, "thousands of children still work long hours at tasks beyond their strength, while 4,000,000 mothers work outside their homes, (three quarters of which are sub-standard,) mostly to augment inadequate incomes."

The medical profession can play a vital role not only in rehabilitating these boys but primarily in preventing many cases of delinquency by wise counsel of prospective parents before and after marriage.

## COLLECTION AGENTS

The Public Relations Department of the A. M. A. recently conducted a survey of fifty representative county societies and also a few key state medical societies. Forty-one replied from twenty-six states; that makes a satisfactory percentage. The use of Collection Agents was favored by 85%, — many more if certain qualifications were met. However, it goes without saying ethical agencies should be used first, keeping in mind that the good will of both patients and physicians should take precedence over money matters. Interestingly, 27% of the county societies now have their own agencies. Naturally, they are in a position to do a better job as far as public relations is concerned.

Recommendations from the letter of Secretary George Lull follow:

1.) Suit methods and policies to the dignified standards of the profession.
2.) Budget plans of payment are to be preferred to suits.
3.) The doctors should be informed of the family's financial status so that they may reduce the bill when such procedure is indicated.
4.) A closer cooperation with the Medical Society is valuable to enhance Public Relations.

Surgical Supply Company
22 Railroad Street Holyoke

## THE WOMEN ADD SOMETHING

Yes, President McKittrick had the right word for it. And well he might as he looked out over the large audience that greeted him on his official visit to the Hampden District and our adventitial Auxiliary on January 23. Their presence seemed to spur him on to speak forcefully and well concerning the earnest workings of our national organization and of the half-hearted participation of the Massachusetts fellows. Our delegates seemed to carry decisive weight on several vital items on the agenda at the interim session in Cleveland last December. But if only the 43% pay the AMA assessment this year, our representatives will automatically be cut to three or four at most and our influence reduced in proportion. If so, how can our allocation of $500,000 be repeated for the benefit of medical schools? That is not all, fellows who fail to pay these dues will be curtailing the valuable protection afforded the nation's health by medical research sponsored by the AMA, by the Council on Medical Education and Hospitals, the supervision of foods, drugs and nostrums, to mention only a few of the continuing projects.

Remember, too, that compulsory governmental medicine is licked properly for the present, but Bro. Ewing does not sleep. He is paid not to. These facts amply justify your ready renewal of participation.

As a matter of fact, an innocent appearing Bill, S. 1, has just been introduced in the Senate. Section 23 of this bill authorizes the President to socialize medical care and hospitalization providing for the physical and mental rehabilitation by the Federal Government of rejected registrants in the guise of a national defense measure.

Our bewilderment, too, at the rapidly increasing costs of running our own Medical Society was cleared up for the most part by Dr. John Conlin who also spoke. The completeness, logic and wit of his explanations satisfied us that our Director of Medical Education and Information has grown apace himself in capability. His dead pan delivery alone was worth the price of admission. Detailed discussion of our financial problems may be examined in the mimeographed report to the Councilors of the Advance Information for the February 7th meeting. It helped to learn that approximately $6000 in the Conlon budget estimate is for capital expenditure and need not be included again next year.

We are coming to like the habit ladies of combined meetings! Health be yours 'till we meet again!

The AMA thoroughly supports the concept that such rejects of selective service should be rehabilitated, but it equally opposes the idea embodied in Section 23 that this responsibility belongs to the Federal Government. The many sources of medical rehabilitation that already exist and the sources to be mobilized voluntarily to meet such necessary services should be at a cost that most registrants can afford. If that meets your ideas you might write your agreement to your Representatives in Washington.

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**WOMEN'S AUXILIARY**
**April 10, 1951**

Annual Luncheon Meeting.
Hotel Kimball. 12:30 P. M.
Speaker: Mrs. William G. LeBrecht, Worcester.
President-elect, Woman's Auxiliary to the Massachusetts Medical Society.

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## IN THE AFFIRMATIVE

Dear Hippocrat:

It is my belief that Western Massachusetts should have a Medical School. We have all the needed beds available for teaching purposes. At the University of Massachusetts, we can have the physical location for the first two years, and in Springfield can be built the necessary location for the last two (2) years.

It was in June, 1947, that I was Naval Aide to Governor Bradford when he first made the statement at my behest at Commencement, that, a Medical School was a needed consideration at the University of Massachusetts and that a study should be made. Unfortunately no funds were set aside for same. I am very happy that Governor Dever has started the ball rolling and is giving deep consideration to a project we feel we need very much in this area.

It will take a few years to investigate, look into, and evaluate all the possibilities, pitfalls, hardships in pioneer work of this kind. I have confidence that the future will show that a Medical School can be a living thing at the University in the Pioneer Valley.

What with the Springfield, The Mercy, and The Wesson Memorial, the Mercy Maternity, the Wesson Maternity, the Springfield Public Health, and the Shriners' Hospitals in Springfield; the Holyoke and Providence Hospitals in Holyoke, the Cancer and T. B. Hospitals at Westfield, Belchertown, the New Soldiers' Home in Holyoke, The Monson State Hospital, the Northampton State Hospital, and all the others in this area, we can have more than enough clinical material for teaching and development of a real grade "A" School without question.

Full time teachers at the University of Massachusetts will have to be obtained for the Basic Sciences. These men can also be used in the Public Health Nurses School, The Medical School, the Dental school, and the Veterinary school. Boston has enough schools; let us lift the binding of the East, and let Western Massachusetts show that in name and purpose we all do have the spirit and ability to do just as we are named — Pioneer Valley — give us the money and the physical structures, we will give Massachusetts and the Nation one of the best Medical Schools in the Country.

Alfred M. Glickman

## HEART TO HEART

The refresher course in Heart disease offered by the Western Massachusetts Heart Association has been well received. The attendance has been considerably larger than anticipated. The purpose was to provide information to interested physicians so that it would reach a large group of the lay public in authentic form. This appears to be a good approach for the dissemination of imformation and the course will be repeated next year.

The clinical meeting of the Heart Association will be presented Monday, March 26, at 8:15 P. M. at the Springfield Hospital. A good program is already set up and it will be a worthwhile meeting for all who are interested.

Holyoke will have the Spring meeting the last Monday in May. Already the program is in preparation.

## HOT FLASHES

Now that Oyster beds can be located by radar bounce, hope springs that the method can be modified for search for them in stews!*

Even God's footstool is not a dependable time-keeper! Several factors were found by Dr. Walter Munk of U. of S. C.'s Scripp's Institution of Oceanography to slow down or speed up the daily spin of our Earth. He figures, e.g., that the increase of sap and verdure in the Spring shifts enough weight to slow her down by .02 milli-seconds per day (!) What if saps continue to increase the year round as I. Q.'s indicate? Walter, quit Munkying with our fundamental tenets!*

*Gist from recent Science News Letter.

## WATCH THE BIRDIE

According to the Editor of the New York Herald Tribune, a group of Washington newspaper men have founded what they call an Indoor Bird Watchers Association for the promotion of ornithological knowledge for the public weal. Already they have listed a number of interesting observations on a variety of denisens of the administrative, legislative and diplomatic terrain of the Capitol City.

Among the commoner 'birds' reported are the 'double crossbill, the horn rimmed scowl, the red-nosed hangover and the ruffled dowager.' These, of course, may be found elsewhere, but only in Washington's well feathered nests are to be seen the rarer specimens such as the 'green-backed maragon and the gold-breasted vaughn'. Scarlet subverters have been listed repeatedly and are believed by one or two self-styled authorities from Wisconsin et al to be widely distributed.

A Massachusetts Chapter already may have been installed but confirmation is lacking. Certainly there are plenty of opportunities here for study. Checklists would show many examples of the migratory avifauna, for instance, the red cross blood-catchers or even the chuckle-headed ewing. There are many indigenous specimens as well as a species of secretary bird, the gallupinule, the Frothingham claptrap rail and both the General's coots that are notorious for their nest-fouling habits. Also worthy of mention are the rice bird and man-of-w-a-r that breed in Hampden County but get around considerably in spite of this.

Every encouragement should be given to the newspaper enthusiasts and others for their zeal in studying the indoor birds and alloting them their proper classifications, not only for the broadened view that rewards biological study, but to provide forwarning for their fellow citizens against noisome infestations in a free-wheeling social economy that may be more rapacious than colonies of startlings. More powerful binoculars to them and plenty of ink!

## BY-LAW CHANGE

At a meeting of the Executive Committee held December 16, 1950, it was voted to do away with the office of Secretary-Treasurer and to substitute instead the office of Secretary and the office of Treasurer. The Committee proposes therefore the following amendments to the by-laws to be voted on at the Annual Meeting of the District Society:

(1) In Chapter III, Section 1, the words, "and a secretary-treasurer", be deleted and there be substituted therefore the words, "a secretary and a treasurer."

(2) In Chapter III, Section 5, the words, "secretary-treasurer", be deleted and there be substituted therefore the words, "secretary who shall be secretary of the committee."

(3) In Chapter IV, Section 3, the first paragraph be deleted and there be substituted therefore the sentence, "The Secretary shall keep the records of the District Society".

(4) In Chapter IV, Section 4 be renumbered Section 5.

(5) In Chapter IV there be added a new section numbered Section 4 to read, 'The Treasurer shall collect assessments and shall account for all receipts and for all disbursements for all the funds of the District Society".

Attest:
Allen G. Rice, Sec.

Harris Pharmacy
139 Chestnut Street
Springfield Massachusetts

COMPLIMENTS
Ernest A. Byron
SPRINGFIELD